1: Holmberg--77 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 861

"In contrast to many primitive societies, where a maternal or paternal relative often assumes the responsibility of formally educating the child, the system of education among the Siriono may best be characterized as informal, random, and haphazard. If there is a general theory of education, it can hardly be more than the necessary one of gradually teaching the child to be as independent as possible of his family, so that by the time he has reached the age of maturity he will be able to shift for himself. Since the amount of knowledge that a child has to absorb to survive in this culturally backward society is small in comparison with what he would have to learn in many other societies, the period of childhood offers more than ample time to instill the patterns of adult behavior without a great deal of formal education."

1: Holmberg--77 [4] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 861

"In instilling the habits of prescribed behavior in a child, the principles of reward and punishment are clearly recognized. A mother who is teaching her child to walk, for instance, frequently rewards him, after he has reached his destination, with a bit of wild bee honey or some other tidbit. But if he is violating some taboo, such as eating dirt or a forbidden animal, not only are the rewards withdrawn, but the child may be roughly picked up and set aside to cry by himself for a while. A disobedient child may also be warned that if he repeats a forbidden act he will be bitten by a snake or carried off by an evil spirit. An unruly child is never beaten, however. At worst, his mother gives him a rough pull or throws some small object at him."

1: Holmberg--77 [5] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 861, 159

"During all of my residence among the Siriono, I observed only one extreme outburst of aggression on the part of a mother against her child. This took place one evening about dusk. Erakúi, a nickname meaning 'Pointed-one,' had just begun to eat a chunk of broiled peccary meat which she had received from one of her relatives. Her young son, Erámi ('Old-buck'—so-called because he looked like an old man), although he had just eaten, began to complain that he had not had enough to eat. Erakúi paid little attention to him at first, but as he continued to complain, she made a few sharp remarks and finally said to him: 'You have already had enough to eat.' He replied: 'You lie,' and made a gesture of grabbing for the meat that she was eating. Suddenly she lost her temper, picked up a spindle lying nearby, and gave the boy a sharp rap on the shoulders. He began to howl and made a dash for the other end of the house to avoid more blows. She followed him a short distance, threw the spindle at him, and then returned to her hammock, where she, too, began to cry. (Mothers almost always cry after they have expressed aggression against their children.) The boy continued to wail at the other end of the house for about 20 minutes after which, since it was getting very dark, he sneaked back and climbed in a hammock with his father. In the morning all had been forgotten."

1: Holmberg--78 [2] (1941-42) 1950 Siriono
116, 861

"When a child is able to walk and talk, his relations outside of the family begin to broaden. By this time, of course, his education is well underway. Having traveled extensively through jungle and swamp he has already become acquainted with the plants and animals. He knows which ones are good to eat and which ones must be avoided. He has felt the prick of spines. He has experienced the sting of mosquitoes, of scorpions, and of ants. He has seen where animals live and how they are shot. He has watched them being cleaned, gutted, quartered, cooked, and eaten. He has gone hungry , and he has eaten to excess. He has been sick with malaria, hookworm, and dysentery. He has watched children be born and die. He has seen the aged and sick abandoned. He has observed his parents get drunk, dance, and fight. He has heard of evil spirits, and has been admonished not to venture out of the house at night lest he be carried off by one. In short, although only 3 or 4 years of age, he has already experienced a major part of his natural environment and participated deeply into his culture."